

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-56. (Canceled)

57. (New) A medical connector for controlling the flow of fluid from a plurality of fluid sources, the connector comprising:

a valve comprising an opening adapted to receive a first fluid source and a wall structure defining an internal cavity, the cavity comprising a neck portion in fluid communication with the opening and a main portion with a larger internal diameter than the neck portion; and

a flexible element positioned in the cavity, the flexible element movable between a first position in which the flexible element obstructs fluid flow through the valve and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through the valve, the flexible element comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and a flexible wall with an inner surface and an outer surface, the flexible element in the first position comprising a first external diameter near the opening, a second external diameter in the neck portion and a third external diameter in the main portion, the second external diameter being smaller than the first external diameter and the third external diameter, and at least a portion of the outer surface of the wall of the flexible element between the first external diameter and the second external diameter being tapered;

the flexible element in the first position further comprising a first internal diameter in the main portion, a second internal diameter in the main portion distal the first internal diameter, and a third internal diameter in the main portion distal the second internal diameter, the second internal diameter in the main portion being smaller than the first and third internal diameters in the main portion;

a tubular main body in fluid communication with the valve; and

a tubular branch adapted to receive a second fluid source and adapted to direct fluid from the second fluid source into the tubular main body.

58. (New) The connector of Claim 57, further comprising a rigid member located within the flexible element.

59. (New) The connector of Claim 58, wherein the rigid member comprises a spike.

60. (New) The connector of Claim 58, wherein the rigid member and the tubular branch are integrally formed.
61. (New) The connector of Claim 57, wherein the connector comprises a transparent material.
62. (New) The connector of Claim 61, wherein the connector comprises a rigid plastic.
63. (New) The connector of Claim 62, wherein the proximal end of the flexible element near the opening of the body in its first position is substantially flat.
64. (New) The connector of Claim 63, wherein the proximal end of the flexible element in the first position is substantially flush with the opening of the cavity of the valve.
65. (New) The connector of Claim 64, wherein the medical valve further comprises a support member enabling the valve to be removably attached to the first fluid source.
66. (New) The connector of Claim 58 wherein the rigid member is positioned within the flexible element to assist in supporting the flexible element and to assist in maintaining the flexible element along an axial centerline of the cavity when the flexible element moves between the first position and the second position.
67. (New) The connector of Claim 64, wherein the flexible element substantially completely fills the opening in its first position.
68. (New) The connector of Claim 57, wherein at least a portion of the flexible element bears against the wall structure near the opening.
69. (New) The connector of Claim 57, wherein the tubular main body has a longitudinal axis and the tubular branch has a longitudinal axis and the longitudinal axes of the tubular main body and tubular branch form an acute angle.